


SLEEPING BEAUTY

IN THE 25TH CENTURY



A play by L. Henry Dowell
BLACK BOX THEATRE PUBLISHING



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CAST

Magic Mirror/Mr. Roboto

King

Queen

Stork

Melody/Ragged Figure #1

Arabesque/Ragged Figure #2

Thesbe/Ragged Figure #3

Evil Fairy

Princess Aurora

Rebel Commander Phillip "Buck"

Rogers

Space Zombie #1

Space Zombie #2

Artists/Space Zombies

SLEEPING BEAUTY IN THE 25TH CENTURY

LIGHTS: RISE on a beautiful palace and the MAGIC MIRROR.

MAGIC MIRROR

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. I am the all-seeing, all-knowing, Magic Mirror on the Wall and it is my distinct pleasure to present to you the time spanning epic, Sleeping Beauty in the 25th Century! Our tale begins as stories such as this often do, in a kingdom, far, far away! Once upon a time, in a decade known as the 70s...the 1470s that is!

(KING and QUEEN enter.)

This particular kingdom was ruled by a benevolent King and his lovely Queen.

KING

He's right you know. You really are quite lovely, my dear.

QUEEN

And you, my King are the very definition of benevolent.

MAGIC MIRROR

Benevolent. Adjective. Meaning to be kind and generous. Which was an accurate description of the King and Queen and how they ruled their kingdom. They were especially fond of the Arts and the palace was always full of dancers...

(A DANCER enters, dancing.)

And poets...

(A POET enters, quill in hand.)

And sculptors...

(A SCULPTOR enters, carrying a statue.)

And musicians...

(A MUSICIAN enters, playing an instrument.)

Painters...

(A PAINTER enters carrying a big painting.)

And actors...

(An ACTOR enters carrying a skull and sword, quoting Shakespeare.)

ACTOR

To be or not to be? That is the question!

MAGIC MIRROR

I don't have the heart to tell him that Shakespeare won't be born for another 92 years. The King and Queen had everything they could possibly want...that is...except for one thing.

QUEEN

A baby!

KING

A baby!

ARTISTS

A baby!

MAGIC MIRROR

That's right, a baby. More than anything else in the world, the Queen wanted a little baby to have and to hold.

QUEEN

And to teach to sing and dance!

KING

And to sword fight!

QUEEN

Sword fight?

KING

He'll need to know how to sword fight.

QUEEN

He?

MAGIC MIRROR

Unfortunately, as the years passed, there was no baby and they began to despair.

KING, QUEEN, ARTISTS

SIGH!

MAGIC MIRROR

Finally, in her desperation, the Queen turned to the one person she knew could give her the answers she sought. The most intelligent and articulate being in all the kingdom...me.

QUEEN approaches MAGIC MIRROR

QUEEN

Oh Magic Mirror on the Wall, who sees all things and knows it all, will I have a babe to have and hold, before I'm gray and grow too old?

MAGIC MIRROR

I'm glad you asked my Queen, though you didn't have to rhyme.

QUEEN

Oh no? I thought it was customary.

MAGIC MIRROR

Only in fairy tales my Queen. This is real life.

(Winks at audience.)

Prose is fine. To answer your question though, yes. You will have a baby!

KING, QUEEN and ARTISTS celebrate.

KING and QUEEN

We're going to have a baby! We're going to have a baby!

QUEEN

Tell us Mirror, will it be a boy or a girl?

MAGIC MIRROR

Yes.

KING and QUEEN look at EACH OTHER, then
MAGIC MIRROR.

KING and QUEEN
WHICH ONE???

MAGIC MIRROR

A girl.

QUEEN
(Ecstatic.)

A girl!

KING
(Not as ecstatic.)

A girl?

QUEEN
She will learn to sing and dance and paint and sculpt and act
and...

KING
Sword fight?

QUEEN
Sword fight?

KING
I was really hoping I'd get to teach someone to sword fight.

MAGIC MIRROR
And so you shall.

KING
Mirror?

MAGIC MIRROR

Yes indeed. She must learn all about the Arts, including the art of sword fighting. It will figure very prominently in her destiny.

KING, QUEEN, ARTISTS

Ooooooooooooo.....

QUEEN

Her destiny?

MAGIC MIRROR

Destiny. Noun. Something that is to happen in the future.

(Small pause.)

So...one day, as I had predicted, the little princess was born.

THE STORK enters, wearing a delivery uniform, carrying a bundle and clipboard.

MAGIC MIRROR

Who are you supposed to be?

STORK

I'm the Stork. What's the matter? Don't you know where babies come from?

(Hands clipboard to KING.)

Sign here, please.

(KING signs, hands clipboard back as STORK hands bundle to QUEEN. STORK exits.)

KING

(Looking at baby.)

She's so beautiful! What shall we name her, my dear?

QUEEN

Let's name her after your mother.

KING

Aurora Borealis? That's an awful name.

MAGIC MIRROR

How about just Aurora?

QUEEN

Aurora? That's nice. I like that.

KING

Any chance we'll face litigation over that name?

MAGIC MIRROR

Litigation. Noun. A lawsuit brought about in a court of law.

KING

So what you're saying is...?

MAGIC MIRROR

It's entirely possible.

KING

Oh well...Aurora it is!

THE KING plays with the baby.

KING

Coochie, coochie, coo!

MAGIC MIRROR

And so...the King and Queen had a large celebration in honor of the young princess' arrival. Everyone in the kingdom was invited. Including the magic folk or Fairies as you might call them.

MUSIC: Festive party music. THE 3 FAIRIES enter and stand before the KING and QUEEN.

MAGIC MIRROR

The first fairy to step forward and offer her gift was Melody.

MELODY steps forward.

MELODY

Little princess, I bestow upon you the gift of music, so that all of your days will be filled with the joy and happiness that song brings.

SHE steps back.

MAGIC MIRROR

Next was Arabesque.

ARABESQUE steps forward.

ARABESQUE

Little one, I bestow upon you the gift of dance. May your movements be rhythmic and your steps be ever true.

SHE steps back.

MAGIC MIRROR

And finally, Thesbe stepped forward.

(THESBE steps forward.)

But just as she was about to bestow her gift, there was a flash of lightning and a crash of thunder!

LIGHTS: Flash. SOUND: Thunder. EVIL FAIRY enters, strikes a pose. EVERYONE cowers.

MAGIC MIRROR

Magnificent!

EVIL FAIRY

Or something like that.

(Looks around.)

Well, well, well. What a nice party. Music. Dancing. Cake. Gifts. In fact, I see everything one could possibly want at a party, the only thing missing...IS ME!!!

(Yelling.)

WHY WASN'T I INVITED TO THIS PARTY???

THE KING and QUEEN look at EACH OTHER.

KING

I was under the impression we had invited everyone in the kingdom. Isn't that what I said? Let's make sure we invite everyone in the kingdom?

QUEEN

We did invite everyone in the kingdom! I made the invitations myself!

KING

Perhaps the invitation got lost in the mail?

EVERYONE turns and looks at the STORK.

STORK

(Gulps.)

It's entirely possible.

EVIL FAIRY

I will not suffer this indignation lightly! I will have my revenge!

SHE steps toward the baby.

KING and QUEEN

NO!!!

EVIL FAIRY

Here is my gift!

(Raises HER arms.)

ON HER 16TH BIRTHDAY, THE LITTLE PRINCESS SHALL
PRICK HER FINGER UPON THE SPINDLE OF A SPINNING
WHEEL AND DIE!!! BWAH-HA-HA-HA-HA!!!

LIGHTS: Flash. SOUND: Thunder.

ALL

GASP!!!

MAGIC MIRROR

Wow. Isn't that a bit harsh? After all, this is Children's Theatre.

EVIL FAIRY

Let this be a lesson to each and every one of you! If you're going
to invite me to your party, you better get delivery conformation!
Bwah-ha-ha-ha-ha!!!

SHE exits laughing. EVERYONE looks at
EACH OTHER.

QUEEN

(To KING.)

What are we to do?

KING

I don't know, my darling.

THESBE steps forward.

THESBE

Perhaps I can help.

KING

Thesbe?

THESBE

I have not yet given my gift.

QUEEN

Thesbe? Can you reverse this curse?

THESBE

Alas, no. What has been done cannot be undone...not completely...but, I may be able to soften the curse...may I?

THESBE gestures for the baby. The QUEEN hands the bundle to HER.

THESBE

I proclaim that the princess will not die when the spindle pricks her finger but instead will fall into a deep sleep. A sleep from which she will awaken in a thousand years with the kiss of a hero.

Pause.

KING

A thousand years? That's your idea of softening the curse?

THESBE

It's the best I could do.

QUEEN

Yes. It IS better than death! Much better than that! Thank you, Thesbe!

KING

As King, I can do my part to prevent this curse as well! I hereby decree that all spinning wheels in this kingdom will be immediately and thoroughly smashed into a million pieces! Now everybody go and destroy those spinning wheels!

The CROWD goes crazy, running off in every direction as we hear the sounds of destruction.

CAST MEMBERS may cross stage with axes and sledge hammers, pieces of spinning wheels.
SOUND: Crashing and smashing.

MAGIC MIRROR

(Alone on stage.)

Pandemonium. Noun. Chaos. Confusion. Disorder.

(Pause.)

For the next 16 years, the King and Queen, along with help from the Fairies and all of the kingdom's artists raised the young princess to be not only an incredible singer, dancer, actor and painter but also a formidable sword fighter!

MUSIC: Adventurous music plays as we see various scenes of people entering with the bundle, dancing, painting, sword fighting, etc
Then transitioning into scenes with AURORA, doing the same activities as SHE grows older.
Finally, the MUSIC: fades.

MAGIC MIRROR

Finally, the big day came. Princess Aurora's 16th birthday! The palace was very quiet. Everyone remained in their rooms afraid to come out. Afraid that somehow, despite their best efforts, the Evil Fairy's curse would come to pass.

SOUND: Doorbell. Long pause. SOUND: Doorbell. Long pause. Finally, the STORK enters, pushing a large wrapped package, obviously in the shape of a spinning wheel.

STORK

Geez! Where is everybody?

(Calls out.)

Hello? Is anybody home?

(HE looks at clipboard.)

I have a birthday gift here for the princess from...

(Looks at clipboard again.)

Millie...no...Melasone...Malignant...Minnie Mouse...oh never mind. I'll just leave it right here. Somebody'll know just what to do with it.

HE exits.

MAGIC MIRROR

And then, this happened.

AURORA enters.

AURORA

(Singing.)

Happy Birthday to me. Happy Birthday to me...

(Looks around.)

Hello? Where is everybody?

(Addresses audience.)

You think they forgot what today is?

(Notices gift.)

Well! It looks like someone remembered!

(Tears paper and bow off.)

What is this thing? I've never seen anything like it. It has a wheel but it's not a carriage. I wonder what it does?

(SHE runs HER hand over it.)

Ouch! I pricked my finger! That's odd. All of a sudden I feel...

SHE falls over and doesn't move.

MAGIC MIRROR

Once upon a time, a beautiful princess was placed under a magic spell by an evil fairy. A spell that would cause her to fall into a deep, deep sleep. A sleep from which she would awaken a thousand years later.

LIGHTS: Fade as MUSIC: Futuristic music plays. LIGHTS: Rise on palace, now covered with vines and trees. The MAGIC MIRROR sits empty. At center sits a bed, also overgrown with vines. SOUND: A battle is heard in the distance, voices, even lasers and heavy equipment if possible.

BUCK

(Offstage.)

This way! There's some kind of old building back here!

BUCK enters, looking around. HE is a heroic spaceman and carries a ray gun. HE is followed by MR. ROBOTO, a robot, played by the MAGIC MIRROR and STORK, now dressed in black. ALL carry ray guns.

STORK

What is this place?

BUCK

Some ancient palace from the looks of it.

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. VERY ancient.

BUCK

Did the mutants see you enter?

STORK

No, I don't believe they did.

HE examines the bed.

BUCK

Good. We'll lay low for a bit, see what happens.

STORK

Commander! Look at this!

He pulls some of the vines from the bed,
revealing AURORA.

MR. ROBOTO

Hubba-hubba-hubba! What a babe!

THEY uncover HER.

BUCK

She's alive...but apparently in some sort of stasis!

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. Stasis. Noun. A state or condition in which
things do not change, move, or progress.

STORK

(To BUCK.)

Does he always have to do that?

BUCK

It's part of his programming.

MR. ROBOTO

Old habits are hard to break.

(Winks at audience.)

Biddi-biddi-biddi.

BUCK

I wonder how long she's been here?

STORK

A very long time from the looks of it.

MR. ROBOTO

Offhand I'd say she's been here a thousand years. Bid-di-bid-di-bid-di.

BUCK

A thousand years? How is that possible?

MR. ROBOTO

There is an ancient legend, Buck. A young princess was cursed to sleep a thousand years by the Evil Fairy.

STORK

Wait...I know of this story. It is one that my people tell to our young. A cautionary tale intended to warn them of crossing the Evil One. You mean to tell me that it's real? That this is the Sleeping Beauty?

MR. ROBOTO

Bid-di-bid-di-bid-di. Yep.

BUCK

Does the legend say anything about waking her up?

STORK

Yes...as I recall, at the end of her thousand year slumber she will be awakened by the kiss of a true hero.

ALL of THEM look at audience, check THEIR breath, look at EACH other.

BUCK

We can't all kiss her.

STORK

Agreed. I should do it.

BUCK

Why you?

STORK

I am the Stork. The greatest warrior the Stork people have ever known.

BUCK

You're the only Stork person left!

STORK

How dare you! You had to bring that up, didn't you? To remind me that I am the very last survivor of a once proud and thriving race of Ciconiidae. (AUTHOR NOTE: Sic-con-KNEE-a-dee.) Now, nearly extinct!

(HE does a weird bird call.)

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi.

BUCK

There's only one way to solve this dilemma.

BUCK, STORK, MR. ROBOTO

ROCK, PAPER, RAY GUNS!

BUCK

It's the only way.

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi.

BUCK

See, even Mr. Roboto agrees.

STORK

He's programmed to agree with everything you say.

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi.

BUCK

Thanks Mr. Roboto.

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. Whatever you say, Buck.

BUCK

Ok. Here we go.

THEY play. ALL choose ray guns. THEY do it again. ALL choose ray guns.

STORK

This is ridiculous. We can't all choose ray guns every time.

THEY do it again. ALL choose ray guns.

BUCK

Look, I have an idea. Let's try it again and this time we'll all close our eyes, all right?

STORK

Fine.

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi.

BUCK

Ok. Everyone close your eyes...or ocular devices as it were. And...

HE steps to the bed, as THEY play and kisses

AURORA. THEY open THEIR eyes and realize
THEY have been tricked.

STORK, MR. ROBOTO

Hey!

AURORA sits up suddenly.

AURORA

...really, really sleepy.

(Looks around, confused.)

Who are you?

BUCK

You were right Stork! The kiss worked!

AURORA

Right about what? What kiss? Who are you guys?

BUCK

I am Rebel Commander Phillip Rogers, but my friends call me
Buck. This is my team.,The Stork and Mr. Roboto.

STORK

Greetings.

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. You're hot.

AURORA jumps out of bed.

AURORA

What rebellion are you commander of? Where am I?

BUCK

Take it easy...

AURORA

Aurora. Princess Aurora! And I command you to tell me what's going on!

BUCK

You are on the planet Earth, Princess, or at least what remains of it. Once the second most populated planet in the star system of Sol.

AURORA notices the condition of the palace for the first time.

AURORA

What has become of the palace...this is my home...where is my family? The King and Queen?

BUCK

Princess. No one has lived in this place for...hundreds of years.

AURORA

Hundreds...?

(Long pause, looking around at the ruins of her home.
Realizing.)

The Evil Fairy! She did this didn't she?

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. Oh snap!

BUCK

The Evil Fairy rules the entire universe, Princess. She has ruled with an iron fist for centuries.

AURORA

Centuries? What year is this?

STORK

It's 2472, your Highness.

AURORA

2472? You mean I've been asleep for a thousand years?

STORK

Yes. I suppose you have.

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. You look really good for a woman your age!

SPACE ZOMBIES enter, growling.

BUCK

Oh no! They've found us!

AURORA

What are they?

BUCK

Space Zombies!

AURORA

Space Zombies?

BUCK, STORK, MR. ROBOTO

SPACE ZOMBIES!!!

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi.

BUCK

Stay behind us, Princess. We'll protect you!

AURORA

I don't think so!

SHE grabs HER sword from beside the bed and leads the attack. Together, THEY run the SPACE ZOMBIES off.

BUCK

Where did you learn to fight like that?

AURORA

My father taught me.

BUCK

Wise man.

AURORA

Wise king. And if you think my sword fighting skills are impressive you should see me dance.

BUCK

Dance? What's that?

AURORA

You don't know what dancing is?

BUCK looks at STORK.

BUCK

Mr. Roboto? Can you help us?

MR. ROBOTO

Searching... Searching...Dance. Verb. To move rhythmically to music, typically following a set sequence of steps...an archaic form of expression believed to have been outlawed by the Evil Fairy along with all other forms of art in the mid 21st Century.

AURORA

Outlawed? You mean you have no art at all? No music? No poetry?

BUCK

No.

AURORA

How do you express yourselves? How do you show joy? Or sadness? Or love? If you have no music?

Pause.

BUCK

What is...music?

Everyone turns to MR. ROBOTO.

MR. ROBOTO

Searching...Ah yes...that'll do nicely.

MUSIC: Slow song plays. AURORA turns to face BUCK.

AURORA

May I have this dance?

BUCK

But, I don't know how.

AURORA

Just listen to the music and follow me.

THEY dance, slowly as the LIGHTS: Fade
MUSIC: Continues into the BLACKOUT.
LIGHTS: Rise, we see a harsh wasteland. The wreckage of what was once a great city. THREE RAGGED FIGURES are huddled over a barrel fire for warmth. THEY are cloaked such that we cannot see THEIR faces. THE EVIL FAIRY enters.

EVIL FAIRY

Be gone with you!

THE RAGGED FIGURES scatter and crouch nearby. SPACE ZOMBIES enter.

EVIL FAIRY

It's about time! Did you capture Rebel Commander Rogers?

SPACE ZOMBIE #1

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

You let him get away?

SPACE ZOMBIE #2

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

I wasn't talking to you, now was I?

SPACE ZOMBIE #2

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

Well, you should be!

SPACE ZOMBIE #1

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

So, you did find Rogers!

ALL SPACE ZOMBIES

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

Would everyone stop trying to talk at once!

Pause.

SPACE ZOMBIE #1

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

I see. And then what happened?

SPACE ZOMBIE #1

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

What? Can this be true?

SHE looks at the SPACE ZOMBIES. THEY all nod "yes".

SPACE ZOMBIE #1

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

A girl?

SPACE ZOMBIE #1

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

With a sword? Interesting. Hmmm...what year is this?

SPACE ZOMBIE #2

Rrurrgh!

EVIL FAIRY

2472? Really? I've been so busy conquering the universe that I've lost track of time. I'm really going to have to buy a date book... anyway...it's true! Sleeping Beauty has awakened from her slumber! No matter though! I'll take my entire army of Space Zombies and wipe out Commander Rogers and his Rebels and finish the job I started a thousand years ago!

EVIL FAIRY (Cont'd.)

I hope you've enjoyed your time here in the future Princess, because your stay is going to be very short! Bwah-ha-ha-ha-ha! Space Zombies! Prepare for a full scale attack!!!

ALL SPACE ZOMBIES

RRURRGH!!!

EVIL FAIRY and SPACE ZOMBIES exit, screaming. The THREE RAGGED FIGURES cross to center.

RAGGED FIGURE #1

We must hurry Sisters. We may be able to warn Aurora of the Evil Fairy's attack!

THEY exit. LIGHTS: Blackout as dark music plays into scene change. LIGHTS: Rise on Palace. The vines have been removed now as has the bed. BUCK, STORK and ROBOTO enter.

BUCK

This palace will serve as the new headquarters for the Rebel Forces. If we are to make a final stand against the Space Zombies, this is as fine a place as any and Princess Aurora has agreed to let us use it.

STORK

Where is the Princess, anyway?

BUCK

Changing clothes. But here she comes. May I present the newest member of the rebellion...the Sleeping Beauty herself!

AURORA enters wearing spacesuit.

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. Wowsers!

AURORA

Thank you, Mr. Roboto. You know what they say. When in Rome.

STORK

What's Rome?

MR. ROBOTO

Searching...

RAGGED FIGURES

(Offstage.)

Aurora!

THEY pull THEIR weapons as the THREE RAGGED FIGURES enter.

STORK

Who are they?

BUCK

They don't look like Space Zombies!

AURORA

How do you know my name?

RAGGED FIGURE #1

We know your name, Princess...because we were there on the day you received it.

RAGGED FIGURE #2

The day we bestowed great gifts upon you.

RAGGED FIGURE #3

And now you must use those gifts.

AURORA

Wait...could it be?

RAGGED FIGURE #1

Yes, Aurora. It is us.

The RAGGED FIGURES remove THEIR hoods
to reveal MELODY, ARABESQUE and
THESBE.

AURORA

Melody! Arabesque! Thesbe! You're here? You're still alive?

ARABESQUE

We are Fairies dear, we're immortal.

BUCK, STORK, MR. ROBOTO

(Raising THEIR ray guns.)

FAIRIES???

AURORA

No! Wait! Put your ray guns away! These are good Fairies.

BUCK

(Lowering ray gun.)

Good Fairies? I didn't know such a thing existed.

THESBE

Certainly we exist but the Evil Fairy has kept us powerless for
centuries.

AURORA

How?

MELODY

Our power has always come from the Arts. Aurora. Music and
dance and theatre and poetry. The Evil Fairy had removed these
things from the world for so long but when you woke up you
began immediately to return them to the world... to return our
power to us once more.

MELODY (Cont'd.)

But we must warn you Princess. she will not stand for this! She is on her way here now with her army to destroy you.

BUCK

On her way now?

SPACE ZOMBIES enter on all sides.

ARABESQUE

You can defeat this army Aurora. Only you.

AURORA

Me? But how?

THESBE

Your gifts!

MELODY, ARABESQUE, THESBE

Use your gifts, Aurora.

AURORA looks around at EVERYONE. The SPACE ZOMBIES close in.

AURORA

Hit it Mr. Roboto!

MUSIC: Something spectacular and fun. AURORA begins to dance. SHE is joined by the FAIRIES then BUCK, STORK and MR. ROBOTO. Finally, the SPACE ZOMBIES join in as well. When the dance has ended, ALL cheer.

SPACE ZOMBIE #1

Rrurrgh!

AURORA

What did he say?

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. He said thank you. For teaching them how to dance.

SPACE ZOMBIE #2

Rrurrgh!

AURORA

And what did he say?

MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. HE said the Evil Fairy is gonna be pretty ticked off when she finds out about this!

EVIL FAIRY

(From offstage.)

He's right about that!

STORK

Look! It's the Evil Fairy!

BUCK

And she's turned into a dragon!

The SPACE ZOMBIES run off screaming.

MUSIC: Battle music. The EVIL FAIRY enters as a dragon. BUCK comes to AURORA'S side.

EVIL FAIRY

Back off Buck Rogers! This is between me and Sleeping Beauty!!!

SHE knocks BUCK out of the way. AURORA battles the EVIL FAIRY. The battle takes place

all over the palace. Finally, AURORA gains the upper hand and is about to strike the final blow, but hesitates.

EVIL FAIRY

What are you waiting for? Finish the job!

AURORA

No.

EVERYONE looks around.

EVIL FAIRY

No?

AURORA

No. A great disservice was done to you once upon a time and although I was only an infant when it happened, it was YOUR reaction to that slight that was childish. I spare you your life this day in the hope that you will see the error of your ways... But understand this... your reign has ended. From this day forward we will bring music and dance and poetry and theatre and art back to this world!

EVERYONE cheers. The EVIL FAIRY exits, defeated.

AURORA

(To CAST and audience.)

My parents, the King and Queen, loved the Arts and they in turn, taught me to love the Arts. In fact, there was once, long ago, a tradition in my kingdom. At the end of an adventure we would have a grand celebration, where everyone in the kingdom would get down with their bad selves!

(To MR. ROBOTO.)

Mr. Roboto?

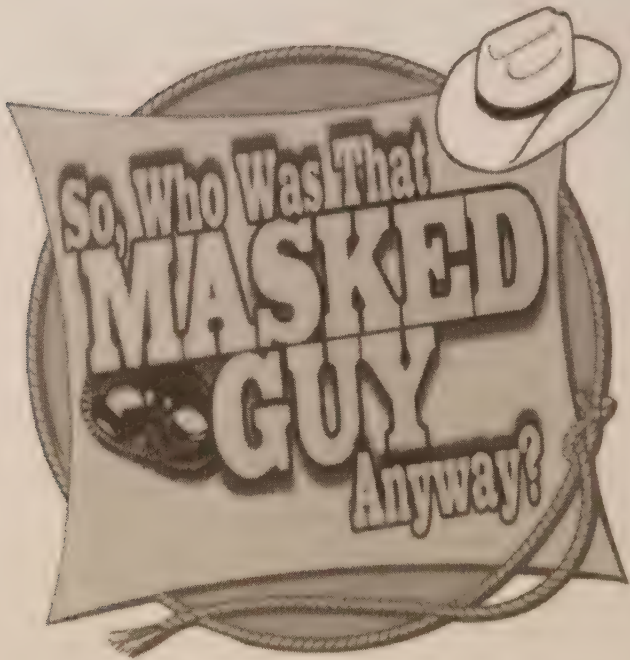
MR. ROBOTO

Biddi-biddi-biddi. Let's boogie!!!

MUSIC: Something loud and fun. EVERYONE
dances.

THE END

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



Poop Happens!" in this send up of all things cowboy!

So, Who Was That Masked Guy Anyway? is the story of Ernie, the grandson of the original Masked Cowboy, a lawman who fought for truth, justice and the cowboy way in the old west. Now that Grandpa is getting on in years he's looking for someone to carry on for him.

The only problem? Ernie doesn't know anything about being a cowboy. He's never seen a real cow, he's allergic to milk and to tell the truth he doesn't know one end of a horse from another! So it's off to cowboy school to learn the basics of cowboyology. He'll learn to rope and ride, chew and spit and to develop the perfect "Yee-Haw!".

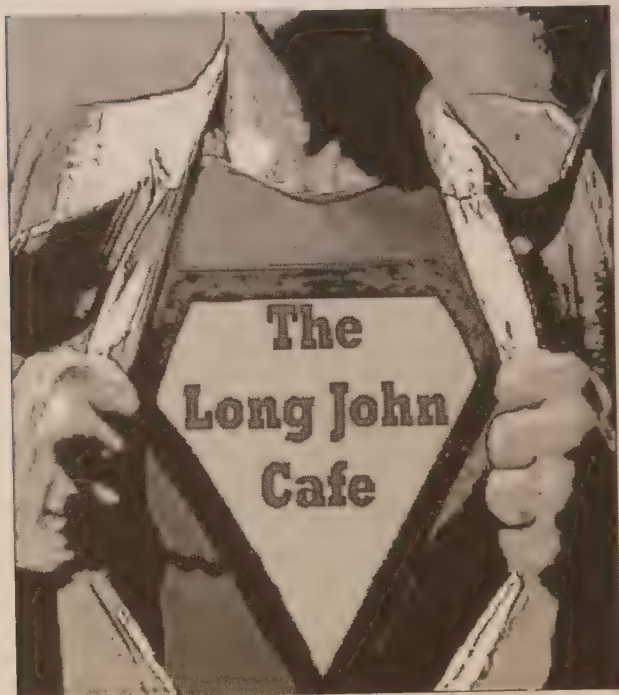
And it's a good thing, because a band of no good outlaws have captured the good people of Gabby Gulch and the President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt! Now it's up to Ernie and his friends to save the day...but beware, before it's all over, the poop is sure to hit the fans!

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



WANTED: SANTA CLAUS is the story of what happens when a group of department store moguls led by the greedy B. G. Bucks decide to replace Santa Claus with the shiny new "KRINGLE 3000", codenamed...ROBO-SANTA! A new Father Christmas with a titanium alloy outer shell housing a nuclear powered drive train, not to mention a snow white beard and a jolly disposition! These greedy tycoons will stop at nothing to get rid of jolly old St. Nick. That includes framing him for such crimes as purse snatching, tire theft and...oh no...not.....puppy kicking?!! Say it isn't so Santa! Now it's up to Santa's elves to save the day! But Santa's in no shape to take on his stainless steel counterpart! He'll have to train for his big comeback. Enter Mickey, one of the toughest elves of all time! He'll get Santa ready for the big showdown! But it's going to mean reaching deep down inside to find "the eye of the reindeer"!

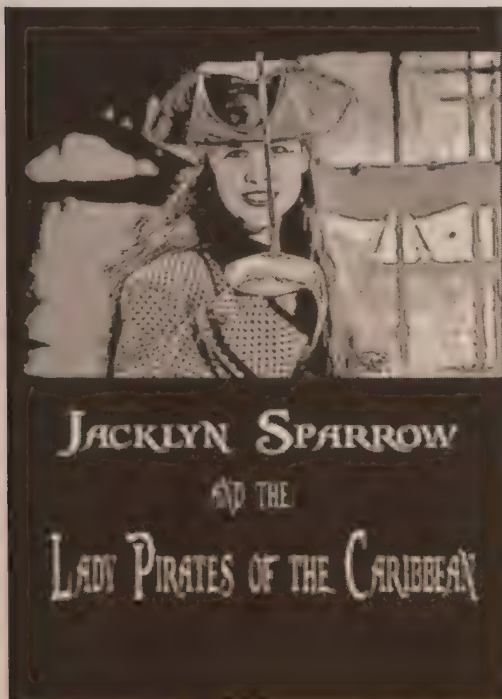
NOW AVAILABLE!!!



At the edge of the universe sits The Long John Cafe. A place where the average guy and the average "Super" guy can sit and have a cup of coffee and just be themselves...or, someone else if that's what they want.

The cafe is populated by iconic figures of the 20th Century, including cowboys, hippies, super heroes and movie stars. They've come to celebrate the end of the old Century and the beginning of tomorrow! That is, if they make it through the night! It seems the evil Dr. McNastiman has other plans for our heroes. Like their total destruction!

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



Why should the boys get to have all the fun?

Jacklyn Sparrow and the Lady Pirates of the Caribbean is our brand new swashbuckling pirate parody complete with bloodthirsty buccaneers in massive sword clanking battle scenes!! A giant wise cracking parrot named Polly!! Crazy obsessions with eye liner!! And just who is Robert, the Dreaded Phylum Porifera??

Of course the whole thing ends with a large celebration where everybody gets down with their bad selves!! It's fun for the whole family in this lampoon of everything you love about pirates!!!

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



"May the Dwarf be with you!"

A wacky take on the classic fairy tale which will have audiences rolling in the floor with laughter!

What happens when you mix an articulate mirror, a conceited queen, a prince dressed in purple, seven little people with personality issues, a basket of kumquats and a little Star Wars for good measure?

Snow White and the Seven Dwarves of the Old Republic!

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



Dear John

An ode to the potty.

"My dreams of thee flow softly.
They enter with tender rush.
The still soft sound which echoes,
When I lower the lid and flush."

They say that porcelain is the best antenna for creativity. At least that's what this cast of young people believe in *Dear John: An ode to the potty!* The action of this one act play takes place almost entirely behind the doors of five bathroom stalls. This short comedy is dedicated to all those term papers, funny pages and Charles Dickens' novels that have been read behind closed (stall) doors!

Bathroom humor at its finest!

NOW AVAILABLE!!!

ELVIS MEETS NIXON (OPERATION WIGGLE)



Declassified after 40 years!

On December 21, 1970, an impromptu meeting took place between the King of Rock and Roll and the Leader of the Free World.

Elvis Meets Nixon (Operation Wiggle) is a short comedy which offers one possible (and ultimately ridiculous) explanation of what happened during that meeting.

NOW AVAILABLE!!!

Even Adam



In the beginning, there was a man.

Then there was a woman.

And then there was this piece of fruit...

...and that's when everything went horribly wrong!

Even Adam is a short comedy exploring the relationship between
men and women right from day one.

Why doesn't he ever bring her flowers like he used to?

Why doesn't she laugh at his jokes anymore?

And just who is that guy in the red suit?

And how did she convince him to eat that fruit, anyway?

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



Count Dracula is bored. He's pretty much sucked Transylvania dry, and he's looking for a new challenge. So it's off to New York, New York! The Big Apple! The town that never sleeps...that'll pose a challenge for sure.

Dracula purchases The Carfax Theatre and decides to put on a big, flashy Broadway show...

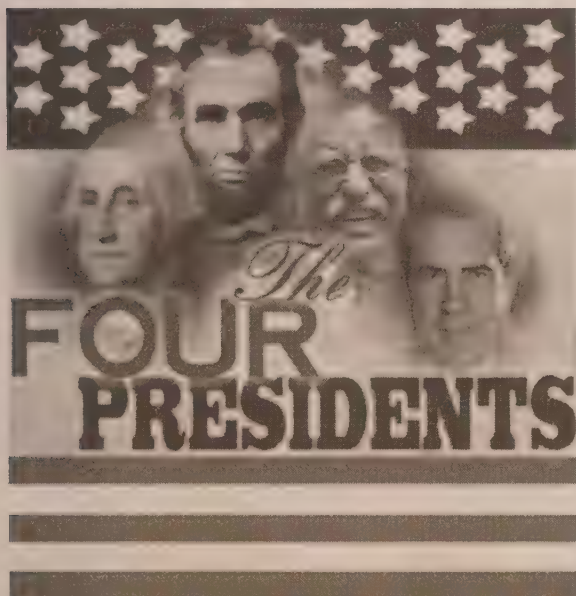
THE DRACULA SPECTACULA!

Of course the Theatre just happens to be across the street from Dr. Seward's Mental Hospital where people have been mysteriously dying since The Count moved in.

Just a coincidence?

The play features a large cast of zany characters and is equal parts horror story and Broadway show spoof.

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



THE FOUR PRESIDENTS examines the lives and characters of four of the most colorful personalities to hold the office. Much of the dialogue comes from the Presidents' own words.

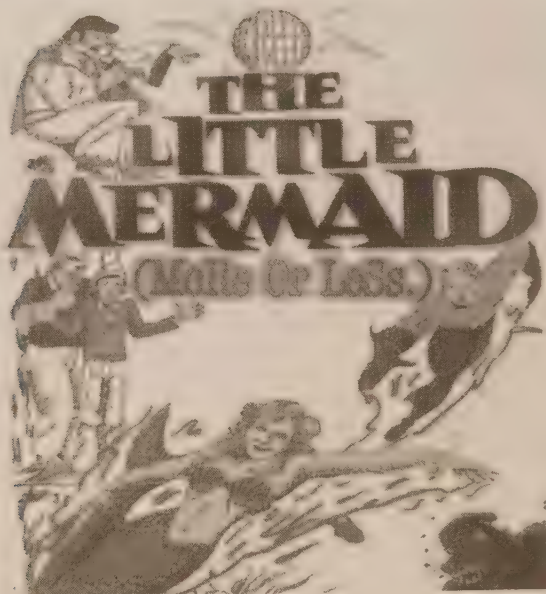
THE FARMER WHO WOULD BE KING presents George Washington through his own words, and the words of his biographer Mason Locke Weems. Was the father of our country a simple farmer who answered the call of his countrymen, or something more?

THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR is the story of a simple man. Born in the wilds of Kentucky and mostly self taught, Abraham Lincoln would someday be regarded as the greatest American who ever lived.

THE BULL MOOSE who occupied the White House 100 years ago was truly a man of action. Theodore Roosevelt was a father, author, rancher, sportsman, policeman, Rough Rider, cowboy, big game hunter, Governor of New York and eventually The President of the United States!

NIXON AND THE GHOSTS is a surreal drama with dialogue ripped straight from the headlines. On the night before his resignation, Nixon ponders his rise and fall, as the shadows themselves seem to come alive and he is confronted by the spirits of Presidents past!

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



The lights rise on a beautiful sunset.

A mermaid is silhouetted against an ocean backdrop.

Hauntingly familiar music fills the air.

Then...the Lawyer shows up.

And that's when the fun really begins!

The Little Mermaid (More or Less.) is the story of a Theatre company attempting to stage a children's version of the Hans Christian Anderson classic. The only problem? It looks and sounds an awful lot like a movie of the same name. That's when the Lawyer for a certain "mouse eared company" starts talking lawsuit for copyright infringement.

Lawsuit?

Copyright infringement?

Throw out the costumes!

What's that? There's a bunch of old clothes backstage from the 1970's? Well, don't just stand there! Go get them!

Ditch the music!

What? Somebody's mom has a greatest disco hits cd out in the car?

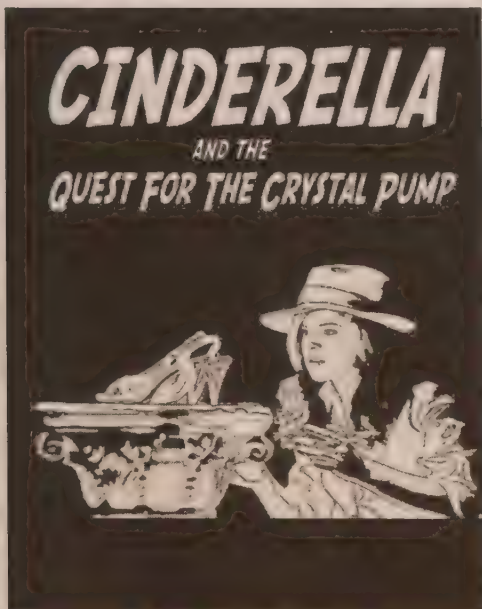
That'll be perfect!

Change everyone's names!

Tartar Sauce! Little M.! The Crab Formerly Known as Sebastian!

Everybody ready? Ok...Action!!!

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



Adventure has a new name...

CINDERELLA!!!

Cinderella and the Quest for the Crystal Pump, is the story of a young girl seeking a life beyond the endless chores heaped upon her by her grouchy stepmother and two stepsisters.

Mow the grass! Beat the rugs! Churn the buttermilk!

Sometimes it's more than one girl can take!

More than anything, Cinderella wants to go to the prince's masquerade ball, but there's one problem - she has nothing to wear! Luckily, her Fairy Godperson has a few ideas.

Meanwhile, Prince Charles Edward Tiberius Charming III, or "Charlie" as he prefers to be called, has run away with his pals, Touchstone the Jester and the Magic Mirror, searching for a quiet place where he can just enjoy a good book!

Now this mismatched quartet find themselves on a quest to find the greatest treasure of all...the perfect pair of Crystal Pumps!

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



Shorespeare is loosely based on a Midsummer Night's Dream. Shakespeare, with the help of Cupid, has landed at the Jersey Shore. Cupid inspires him to write a play about two New Jersey sweethearts, Cleo and Toni. Shakespeare is put off by their accent and way of talking, but decides to send the two teenagers on a course of true love. Toni and Cleo are determined to get married right after they graduate from high school, but in order to do so they must pass this course of true love that Cupid's pixies create and manipulate. As they travel along the boardwalk at the Jersey Shore, Cleo and Toni, meet a handful of historical figures disguised as the carnies. Confucius teaches Cleo the "Zen of Snoring", Charles Ponzi teaches them the importance of "White Lies", Leonardo Da Vinci shows them the "Art of Multitasking", and finally they meet Napoleon who tries to help them to "Accept Shortcomings" of each other. After going through all these lessons, the sweethearts decide that marriage should wait, and Cupid is proud of Shakespear who has finally reached out to the modern youth.

NOW AVAILABLE!!!



Everyone has heard the phrase, "it's the squeaky wheel that gets the oil," but how many people know the Back-story? The story begins in a kingdom far, far away over the rainbow – a kingdom called Spokend. This kingdom of wheels is a happy one for the gods have blessed the tiny hamlet with plentiful sunshine, water and most important –oil. Until a terrible drought starts to dry up all the oil supplies.

What is to be done?

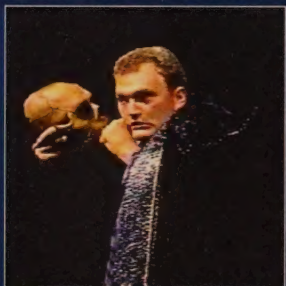
The powerful barons of industry and politicians decide to hold a meeting to decide how to solve the situation. Since Spokend is a democracy all the citizens come to the meeting but their voices are ignored – especially the voice of one of the poorer citizens of the community suffering from a squeak that can only be cured with oil, Spare Wheel and his wife Fifth Wheel. Despite Spare Wheel's desperate pleas for oil, he is ignored and sent home without any help or consideration.

Without oil, Spare Wheel's squeak becomes so bad he loses his job and his family starts to suffer when his sick leave and unemployment benefits run out. What is he to do? Spare Wheel and Fifth Wheel develop a scheme that uses the squeak to their advantage against the town magistrate Big Wheel who finally relents and gives over the oil. Thus, for years after in the town of Spokend citizens in need of help are told "It's the squeaky wheel that gets the oil."



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Colonel Henry Dowell is an internationally produced playwright who's plays have been especially popular with School Drama Groups and Children's Theatre Companies. A native of Kentucky, he received his BA in Theatre from Morehead State University and attended The American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York.

In 2013, the Governor of Kentucky commissioned him a Kentucky Colonel, the highest honor awarded by the Commonwealth.

He is the co-founder of The Gusto Theatre Company, where he has directed children's productions for over 20 years.

His other works include Snow White and the Seven Dwarves of the Old Republic, The Sleigh Team, The Long John Cafe, Cinderella and the Quest for the Crystal Pump, So, Who Was That Masked Guy Anyway?, Wanted: Santa Claus, Batguy, Jacklyn Sparrow and the Lady Pirates of the Caribbean, Humbug!, Frankenstein Rocks!, The Dracula Spectacula, Dear John, Elvis Meets Nixon, The Boyz and Me, My Father and Son, Even Adam, The Many Hats of Theodore Roosevelt, Otherwise Known as Anthony Roberts and The Four Presidents. All of the Colonel's plays are available for amateur and/or professional productions worldwide.

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